

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, November 14, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W025 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen, Senate Chair
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro, House Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. Dan R. Eastman
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. James A. Dunnigan
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod

Members Absent:

Rep. Karen W. Morgan

Staff Present:

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst
Mr. James L. Wilson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Mascaro called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m. Rep. Morgan was excused from attending the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Eastman, Sen. Jones, Sen. Madsen, Rep. Julie Fisher, and Rep. Herrod absent for the vote.

2. Draft Bill, "Community and Economic Development Technical Changes"

Mr. Wilson gave an overview of 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Community and Economic Development Technical Changes" that was distributed in the mailing packet. He noted the bill makes certain technical changes to reporting requirements for the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Department of Community and Culture and provides for uniformity in referencing the Office of Rural Development and its director.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to adopt as a committee bill, 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Community and Economic Development Technical Changes." The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Eastman, Rep. Julie Fisher, and Rep. Herrod absent for the vote.

Chair Mascaro turned the chair over to Sen. Madsen.

3. Draft Bill, "Child Care Providers"

Ms. Lynette Rasmussen, Director, Office of Child Care, DWS (Department of Workforce Services), gave a summary on DWS's regulation of family, friend, or neighbor child care providers.

Mr. Wilson reviewed 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Child Care Providers" that was distributed in the mailing packet. He explained that the bill provides a screening process for DWS to verify qualifications of certain child care providers by requiring criminal background checks.

MOTION: Sen. Fife moved to adopt as a committee bill, 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Child Care Providers" with a modification, related to the payment of subsidies to providers in relation to the completion of background checks, to be worked out with the department, the sponsor, and staff. The motion passed with Sen. Christensen voting in opposition. Sen. Eastman, Sen. Jones, Rep. Julie Fisher, and Rep. Herrod were absent for the vote.

4. Draft Bill, "Department of Community and Culture - State-Owned Art Inventory"

Mr. Palmer DePaulis, Executive Director, Department of Community and Culture, spoke to the draft legislation and gave background information explaining the need for the Department of Community and Culture to be responsible for inventory on state-owned art.

Ms. Margaret Hunt, Director, Division of Arts and Museums, gave an overview of 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Department of Community and Culture - State-Owned Art Inventory" that was distributed in the supplemental mailing packet.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to adopt as a committee bill, 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Department of Community and Culture - State-Owned Art Inventory." The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Eastman and Sen. Jones absent for the vote.

5. Affordable Housing Issues

Ms. Rose Marie Hunter, Director, University Neighborhood Partners, distributed handouts, "University Neighborhood Partners Hartland Partnership Center," and "University of Utah, University Neighborhood Partners, Hartland Partnership Center." She discussed the issues families are facing with affordable housing.

Ms. Deborah Bayle, President and CEO, United Way of Salt Lake, shared United Way of Salt Lake's research findings regarding affordable housing in Utah. She suggested a more proactive approach to meeting the affordable housing needs of individuals and families across the income spectrum.

Mr. Scott Anderson, President and CEO, Zions Bank, discussed the challenge of finding affordable housing in the state.

Rep. Phil Riesen, sponsor, gave an overview of 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Mobile Home Owners' Rights" that was distributed in the supplemental mailing packet. He noted that the bill addresses the provision of adequate notice to the residents of a mobile home park before they are required to vacate the park because of a change in land use or condemnation.

Mayor Russ Wall, Mayor of Taylorsville, spoke in support of the draft legislation.

MOTION: Sen. Jones moved to pass 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Mobile Home Owners' Rights," as a committee bill. The motion passed with Sen. Madsen and Rep. Herrod voting in opposition. Sen. Eastman was absent for the vote.

6. Adequacy of Cash Grant Levels in the FEP (Family Employment Program)

Mr. Hunsaker distributed a report that was presented to the Executive Appropriations Committee, "Financial Assistance or Services to Low-Income Individuals and Families."

Rep. Janice Fisher noted some perceived funding problems with the family employment program.

Ms. Karen Silver, Salt Lake Community Action Program, distributed a handout, "The Role of Family Employment Program Cash Assistance in Fostering Family Self Sufficiency" that addressed background information on the issue.

Ms. Kathy Link, Assistant Director, Operations Support Division, Department of Workforce Services, distributed and reviewed a handout, "Utah Department of Workforce Services" that addressed the current Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant levels and federal poverty guidelines.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Eastman was absent for the vote.

Chair Madsen adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.